



Pacific Islands Critical Habitat Update

Aloha!

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Pacific Islands Critical Habitat Update, a way for the Fish and Wildlife Service to keep you informed on the events concerning designation of critical habitat in Hawaii and the Mariana islands.

We will be adding a new link to our website pacificislands.fws.gov, under *News and Information*, which will feature the *Critical Habitat Update Newsletter*, the newsletter you are reading right now!

If you would like to receive this newsletter through email, please send a request to joy_hiromasa@r1.fws.gov. Please help us reduce the amount of paper consumed by this newsletter.

If you have any questions or suggestions on the attached material, or you would like more information, please feel free to contact us at:

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Mahalo for your continued interest in Pacific islands critical habitat!

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Field Supervisor



Hibiscus arnottianus spp.
immaculatus

MEETINGS

Our staff is meeting with various scientists, land owners, land managers, and stakeholder groups in a continuing effort to receive input and improve critical habitat proposals. Some of the recent meetings are listed below.

RECENT MEETINGS

Topics and Participants	Date	Location
All Critical Habitat; State DOT Staff	Nov. 1, 2002	DOT Offices, Honolulu
Rota Public Hearing	Nov. 6, 2002	Rota Resort, As Pulodan, Rota
Guam Public Hearing	Nov. 7, 2002	Outrigger Guam Resort, Tumon Bay, Guam
Maui/Kahoolawe Plants; DOFAW Administrator	Nov. 7, 2002	Honolulu
Big Island Plants; TSA, MID, Wilson, Okamoto & Assoc.	Nov. 12, 2002	Honolulu
Cave Invertebrates; Knudsen Trust, PRB	Nov. 14, 2002	Honolulu
Big Island Plants and Blackburn's Sphinx Moth; Hualalai Ranch	Nov. 14, 2002	Hualalai Ranch, Big Island
Big Island Plants and Blackburn's Sphinx Moth; Private Landowner	Nov. 15, 2002	Honolulu
Oahu Public Hearing	Nov. 19, 2002	Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Oahu
Big Island Plants; DOFAW Staff	Nov. 21, 2002	DOFAW Hilo Office
Big Island Plants; Pig Hunters	Nov. 21, 2002	Pepeekeo Community Center, Big Island
Oahu Plants; Dillingham Ranch	Nov. 22, 2002	Dillingham Ranch, Oahu
Kauai Cave Invertebrates; Consultants for a Private Landowner	December 2, 2002	Honolulu
Big Island Plants and Blackburn's Sphinx Moth; TSA, MID, Wilson, Okamoto, & Associates	December 3, 2002	Honolulu
Kauai Cave Invertebrates; Grove Farm	December 3, 2002	Honolulu
Big Island Plants; U.S. Army, Pohakuloa Training Area	December 10, 2002	Pohakuloa, Big Island
Blackburn's Sphinx Moth; Alexander and Baldwin	December 12, 2002	Honolulu
Oahu and Big Island Plants; U.S. Army Garrison Commander	December 16, 2002	Honolulu

UPCOMING MEETINGS

No meetings planned until after the new year.

PEER/STAKEHOLDER REVIEW

Critical habitat peer/stakeholder review packages are sent out to scientists, land managers, and stakeholders such as hunting associations to request their comments on the proposed rule and the economic analysis. These comments help bring out new information, assess current scientific knowledge, and provide general viewpoints of the reviewers if they do or do not support the proposals.

Included in the packages sent to reviewers is the *Federal Register* notice, a fact sheet about the package (i.e., Kauai plants or Newcomb's snail), and two maps. One map shows the area of the species in relation to where critical habitat is proposed and the other shows species and tax districts. In this way, the reviewer can see if the area delineated is part of a conservation district, state park or on private land. The economic analysis is also sent when it becomes available.

When packages are sent out, a reviewer has about 45-60 days to respond. If the economic analysis is not available at the time the package is published, the reviewers will have another 30 days to respond with comments once it is available.

Package	Number of Reviewers	Number of Comments Received to Date
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Plants	9	3
Kauai/Niihau Plants	21	7
Oahu Plants	17	8
Maui/Kahoolawe Plants	17	9
Molokai Plants	15	4
Lanai Plants	12	3
Big Island Plants	21	5
Kauai Cave Invertebrate	9	6
Blackburn's Sphinx Moth	14	8
Guam and Rota species	10	3

PUBLISHED FINAL RULES

Final rules establishing critical habitat have been published for the following species. The *Federal Register* notices can be found on the web at: pacificislands.fws.gov under critical habitat updates.

RULE	DATE PUBLISHED	50 CFR Part 17
Oahu elepaio	December 10, 2001	RIN 1018-AG99
Newcomb's snail	August 20, 2002	RIN 1018-AH94

STATUS OF PROPOSALS AND CURRENT COURT ORDERED DEADLINES

RULE	PROPOSED RULE PUBLISHED IN <i>FEDERAL REGISTER</i>	END COMMENT PERIOD	RELEASE DATE OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS	COMMENT PERIOD REOPENED	END OF REOPENED COMMENT PERIOD	FINAL RULE TO BE SUBMITTED TO <i>FEDERAL REGISTER</i>
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands	May 14, 2002	July 15, 2002	Sept.12, 2002	Sept. 12, 2002	October 15, 2002	April 30, 2003
Kauai/ Niihau	Jan. 28, 2002	March 29, 2002	May 28, 2002	August 26, 2002	Sept. 30, 2002	Jan. 31, 2003
Oahu	May 28, 2002	July 29, 2002	TBA	August 26, 2002	Nov. 30, 2002*	April 30, 2003
Maui/Kahoolawe	April 3, 2002	June 3, 2002	October 2, 2002	August 26, 2002	Nov. 1, 2002	April 18, 2003
Molokai	April 5, 2002	June 4, 2002	August 12, 2002	August 26, 2002	Sept. 30, 2002	Feb. 28, 2003
Lanai	March 4, 2002	May 3, 2002	June 16, 2002	July 15, 2002	August 30, 2002	Dec. 30, 2002
Big Island	May 28, 2002	July 29, 2002	Dec. 18, 2002	Dec. 18, 2002	Jan. 18, 2003	May 30, 2003
Kauai Cave Invertebrates	March 27, 2002	May 28, 2002	Nov. 15, 2002	Nov. 15, 2002	Dec. 16, 2002	March 30, 2003
Blackburn's Sphinx Moth	June 13, 2002	August 12, 2002	Nov. 15, 2002	August 26, 2002	Dec. 30, 2002	May 30, 2003
Guam Species	October 15, 2002	Dec. 16, 2002	Dec. 5, 2002	Dec. 5, 2002	Jan. 6 2003	June 1, 2003

TBA: To Be Announced

* Comment Period will re-open when the Economic Analyses becomes available.